

WHO CARES IF THE CITY IS MADE UGLY BY REASON OF UNRESTRICTED BILL BOARDS?

(BY G. A. M.)

UPON the eastern end of the mesa overlooking the Homan sanatorium, a sign is being erected several hundred feet in length and with letters many feet high. The sign is being installed by a local billboard advertising concern for a business customer.

If the mayor and city council permit this sign to stand, the result is going to be that the mesa and its wonderfully picturesque "rim" will soon be filled with such things and instead of an excellent, unobstructed view of rugged old Mount Franklin, we shall with every gaze be reminded that "Pink Pills Cure Pale People" or that "Sampson Suspenders Save Suspenders" or "Take King's Kough Kure and Keep Kute" or asked "What's The Use of Having a Complexion When Katie Kazinsky Can Make You One?"

El Paso is already in the throes of the billboard nuisance so deeply that it is impossible for many people to look out of their windows on anything but a great glaring sign, but heretofore the billboard nuisance has mainly been confined to the streets and little of our natural scenery has been marred by the billboard nuisance.

Los Angeles is an example of what the nuisance can grow to and at present the people of that city are fighting the billboard trust with all their might, but they have let it get such a hold that every beautiful orange orchard is virtually obscured by an admonition to do something or not to do something. Even one of the most beautiful views into the foothills between Venice and Los Angeles is spoiled by a white sign covering half the side of one of the hills showing in white the figures "57," evidently referring to the Heinz 56 varieties. (There used to be 57 varieties, but Heinz canned the tomatoes because they couldn't ketchup, so the sightseeing guide in Los Angeles always tells you.)

The thing is up to the mayor and city council. Are they going to allow the scenery of El Paso to be marred and obscured just to let a few billboard concerns make a little pile of money?

Haven't the people of El Paso some rights that should be respected? Should the city council should force respect for, regardless of personal likings for the billboard man? The city council is elected to guard the interests of the people of El Paso and these interests certainly are not being guarded when the council permits views to

be obstructed and natural scenery to be despoiled for anybody's personal gain.

The billboard along the streets in residence districts are a great nuisance, and property owners, who pay taxes, have a right to protection from this nuisance. The man who builds a house with a good view and is then suddenly hedged in by billboard obstructions, has a right to complain. He pays his taxes to the city on his home, and his property is definitely damaged by having billboards near it.

Would any other business institution in El Paso be permitted to make its money by damaging the property of other people? Inch by inch the billboard tentacles have been reaching out and grasping more and more; every day the area of the billboard is increased. If a half is not called, where will the spoilation end?

There is need for stricter regulation of this business, in the interest of all the people. And above all, the mesa and its picturesque "rim" must be saved from these encroachments. If we have no ordinances that sufficiently cover this emergency, let one be framed without delay, and strictly enforced.

A Woman In Business

Advises from Silver City tell us that a Grant county woman has become a cattle queen. She is Mrs. Mary A. McVannan, who has purchased the Bar N ranches and cattle north of Separ and added them to her already considerable holdings.

The Bar N brand was originated by A. D. Norcross who retired from the cattle business several years ago after selling his interests to Andrew and Benjamin Locklear, from whom Mrs. McVannan acquired them for a price said to have been about \$75,000. This makes her the owner of one of the largest cattle ranches and herds in the southwest.

Mrs. McVannan is not the only woman in this section who has demonstrated her ability to carry on a large business. There are others in plenty. In this part of the world we do not feel that a woman who forges ahead is crowding a good man out of the way. If she can get there, more power to her.

The Wild Horse Game

P. T. Barnum was right. The investors in the wild horse herds of northern Arizona, now relating in court how they were separated from property or cash, prove it. It is hard to tell which is wilder, the horses or the investments these confiding persons made.

By sworn testimony we are informed that man after man, free, white and 21, exchanged home, farm, business or town property for wild horses he had never seen, which he himself was to catch, at a price fixed by the vendor. He simply turned his property over to a stranger and took it upon himself to catch his own horses out of the imaginary roving herds. One such investor parted himself from \$5000 worth of property and spent months of time, to say nothing of the expense and board of a gang of cowboys, trying to catch a herd of wild horses with the result that he caught one and it died. Many others were not quite so fortunate. That is to say, they did not even catch one.

As to the fraud involved, there arises a nice little question for the lawyers to thrash out. To prove fraud, it seems that one must trace the sales of these horses back to the man who executed the first bill of sale, for he had no right to sell them, inasmuch as they were not his any more than they were the property of anyone else. Not having been caught and branded, they were anyone's property and no one's. The unbranded horses in the herds are still anyone's and no one's, despite all the bills of sale which seem to have been executed.

From accounts of the testimony, it appears the case is still further complicated by the fact that there are in the herds certain branded horses which probably escaped from their owners and joined the wild ones. If the bills of sale executed embraced herds which happened to contain these branded animals, and the executor had no right to sell these branded ones, another charge of fraud would doubtless be proper could it be proved the vendors knew the branded animals were in the herds.

Thus a merry tangle has been created all because a large number of people were more careless about swap-

ping sight unseen than anyone in his senses should be. Probably the complaining purchasers of these wild horses would be glad to see the vendors go to jail for life. A more fitting sentence, if fraud were proved and sentence were made possible, would be to set them to trying to catch the wild horses. That would be a life sentence of a sort.

King Frijole

New Mexico is almost as much excited over beans as it would be over a gold strike. Literally hundreds of farmers have grown beans in the past season with much profit and some have made themselves almost wealthy as the result of a single crop. From Estancia, Mountainair, Moriarty and even as far south as Deming, pink beans have proved great moneymakers. From the Estancia valley alone it is estimated that the year's total shipment will amount to 200 carloads, or about 8,200,000 pounds of beans selling above six cents a pound. This makes the year's revenue from the Estancia valley from beans alone \$500,000.

Growers have found the production per acre worth from \$75 an acre to about \$120. That is more than they ever expected to make, and, as a result, many farmers are acquiring more land in order to plant more beans, make more money and, presumably buy more land and keep the accumulative process going indefinitely.

Prices for beans have been higher than farmers expected them to be when they planted—so high in fact that the growers have received intimations that the canned pork and beans product will be seriously curtailed. They are not given to worrying, however. Why should they worry?

Gen. Funston didn't say it, but there are enough chaplains in the army to take care of the spiritual needs of the soldiers, with the assistance of the Y. M. C. A., and there are enough sinners in civil life to engage the best endeavors of the evangelists.

Short Snatches From Everywhere

It is now the House of Perilousness—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Adamson law got the Hook—Philadelphia North American.

A ukulele is a mandolin with a press agent—Boston Transcript.

Sometimes a River of Doubt turns out to be only the old familiar Salt River—Milwaukee Journal.

Armies of Balkan powers ought to be healthy—they retire early and often—Wall Street Journal.

The Prohibition movement is intended to be a dry-cleaning process—Christian Home and School (Erie).

Republican leaders will vouch for the quality of the California lemon crop—Seymour (Ind.) Republican.

England wishes Charles I. of Austria a reign as pleasant as that of her own Charles I.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The farmer used to pray for dollar wheat; now he lets the consumer do the praying—Paterson Press-Guardian.

Under existing political conditions it is almost impossible for the demon rum to keep his spirits up—Washington Post.

We should not wish to live in Berlin, although potatoes are selling for less there than in Providence—Providence Journal.

Probably we shall never run for president; but if we ever do we shall hurry to shake hands with Hiram Johnson—Indianapolis News.

It is only natural that the fighting in the Druze region, near Monastir, should be conspicuous in the theater of war—Brooklyn Eagle.

The way prices keep going up makes one wish that when Sir Isaac Newton invented gravitation he had made it a little stronger—Indianapolis News.

In 1926 they will probably speak gently of the good old days when flour was only ten dollars per barrel and shoes cost but thirty dollars a pair—Brooklyn Eagle.

Army officers are looking forward with grim pleasure to the arrival at Fort Leavenworth of a lot of civilians who are to be cultivated intensively into second lieutenants. After all, opportunities for enjoying themselves don't come any too often to army officers—St. Louis Globe-Dispatch.

Roundabout Town

Boston Paper Declines To Right Libel On El Paso Editor Admits He's Wrong, Refuses To Correct

BY G. A. MARTIN.

BOSTON is not inclined to give El Paso a square deal. F. L. Bullard, editor of the Boston Herald, declines to print the article submitted by an El Pasoan combating the rigmarole of lies about El Paso recently given publicity in that paper in a "composite interview" with an alleged sergeant, following the return there of the Boston troops. The editor admits in a letter to The Herald that the article was wrong in reference to the alleged killing of a Massachusetts sergeant, wherein the atrocious slander was placed upon El Paso, its police force and the regular soldiers stationed here, but declines to correct even that part of the libel, at least he does not say that he is making a correction.

As for the rest of the article, characterizing El Pasoans as "a worse lot than the Mexicans themselves" (referring to a composite of the "Massachusetts" put to rest the El Paso police force and the provost guard in a battle over a dog, denouncing the police and the customs guards, the editor actually attempts to justify his publication by asserting that "representative the general view of the boys who went to the border."

The letter of the editor follows: Boston, Mass., Dec. 3. Editor El Paso Herald: The article to which you refer was a composite interview, written after long conversations with a good many members of the Massachusetts regiments immediately after their return from the border.

One error in the article, which we regret, and to which our attention had been called, was that about sergeant Birnie. Someone made a mistake upon that point and called him a militiaman, when he was a regular.

As for the rest, it simply represents the general views of the boys who went to the border. Newspaper men who went down there also confirm the article. We have no doubt that there are many good things about El Paso, but that Sunday story was a pretty good expression of the general sentiment of the militia.

If civil service means better service, then we ought to have it in many places besides the police department. I must say we have a pretty civil lot of traffic cops, though. Some of them have a lot more patience than most of the rest of us would show.

The doctor who has the most patience usually has the most patients.

Some of the victims of the European war are fortunate if the price of shoes keeps going up or even stays where it is, for one foot is enough to have to cover at the present prices.

Things that never happen: Gen. George Bell inspecting an organization and not finding something wrong.

"Christmas trees for sale; girl wanted," says a sign in a variant lot. Wonder if they want to put the girl on the Christmas tree?

Let us hope the Kaiser will be more successful in taking the best of the trenches than our esteemed fellow countryman, Henry Flyver, was a year ago.

A friend of D. C. Booth's, called Jones had the misfortune to get in the way of an automobile driven by a woman on Montana street. The friend was taken to a hospital, but his injuries were not serious, so he was immediately removed to the police station, where his assailant was being held. And as soon as Jones got there the woman started in to impress him with the fact that the blame was all his.

"You know, Mr. Jones," she said, "you must have been walking very carefully. I am a very careful driver. I have been driving a car for seven years."

"You've got nothing on me, ma'am," said Jones, politely. "I've been walking for 24 years."

The galley boy (Gaulich) wants to know whether Germany's floating debt is for the upkeep of her navy, or for the maintenance of her breweries.

A downtown sign admonishes the public to "Dodge Brothers' motor car."

Income and Outgo

USED to earn one plunk a day, when I was shearing swine. I could not salt much coin away, and often I'd repine. And yet—no doubt you'll be amazed—I saved a little store, and knew that when my pay was raised, I'd save a whole lot more. I got a job at herding ducks, and teaching them to swim; for this each day I drew two bucks, and yet my roll was slim. I found that as my income grew, I had to spend more money; I saved less cash when drawing two, than when I drew but one. I got a job at making soup of bran and prairie hay, and put it down in brine. I cried, in frenzy fine; each week I'll take a goodly sum, and put it down in brine. But my position called for duds much better than I'd known, for scrambled shirts and shining studs—my needs had greatly grown. It didn't take me long to see—and seeing made me blue—that I was saving less on three, than when I pulled down two. And now I earn ten wheels a day, debauching muley steers, and I'm (oh, grievous thing to say!) in debt up to my ears.

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WALT MASON.

EL PASO HERALD

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL HAVE THREE UNOPPOSED.

R. D. Slater, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 18 years. J. C. Wilmer is Manager and G. A. Martin is News Editor.

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Seventh Has Moved 11 Times in Three Years Copper Slump Is Only a Temporary Flurry

THE Seventh regular infantry has moved 11 times in the last three years, said Chaplain A. L. Griffith, of the regiment. "From Fort Leavenworth it went to Galveston and later to Veracruz; thence back to Galveston; thence to the coast for three weeks, awaiting orders, and thence to Galveston, El Paso, Douglas, Nogales, Fort Bliss, Camp Cotton and Fort Bliss, in the order named. Each time the regiment built or rebuilt its own camp. In the Galveston flood it lost nearly everything, and it has not yet been reimbursed by the government. The regiment has had to make work during the flood. What the regulars do, however, is not noticed much. The idea being that it is their duty and it is to be taken for granted. The men have undergone a long strain of patient waiting for—what? They have spent their time in guard duty and drill. Yet, undisciplined by such frequent moves, the regiment has as good camp improvements as any other regiment, if not better. It has a well furnished officers' mess hall, and now we are just completing a 50 by 50 feet auditorium for religious and amusement purposes. It is a well built, permanent structure, for temporary structures are too temporary in this country. The building will soon be ready for its formal dedication."

"The present slump in copper prices is only temporary, and due to the Wall Street flurry following reports of probable peace in Europe," said James Mundy, copper magnate of Butte, Mont., at the Hotel Sheldon. "Wall Street is always ready for the slightest excuse to cause fluctuations, and the story that Germany had offered peace terms furnished a splendid opportunity to bear all kinds of stocks. As a matter of fact, studies of the copper market predict that with peace, the price of the metal will go even higher than during the war. Immense quantities will be needed for rehabilitation, and the transformation of munition factories into industrial plants will require large amounts. Montana's copper industry is looking forward to years of unprecedented prosperity following the declaration of peace, and the same will apply to the southwest."

"The carpet slipper age of Christmas gifts for men is receiving its quietus this year, particularly along the border," said A. E. Pell, of Chicago, at the Hotel Paso del Norte. "Really manly gifts are the thing, and judging from the reports of the merchants, the boys in khaki are going to fare remarkably well. Christmas always has been a function in which women and children were the chief beneficiaries, but this year men are coming into their own. Handsome leather articles and kites that can be used in camp are the favorites, from Brownsville to San Diego. Another popular gift is a small, folding safety razor that takes up little more room in the vest pocket than a book of postage stamps. Incidentally, El Paso has become the national center for razor watches and swagger sticks. More of these have been sold here for the holiday trade than in any other city in the country, regardless of size."

"It is the patriotic duty of the women of El Paso to make Christmas cakes for the men on the border," said John M. Wyatt. "The mothers of the city should do all they can to make the Christmas of the sons of other mothers as bright as possible, even if they have to lay aside some of their own preparations. They should make the cakes themselves. And by the way, I wish to congratulate El Paso on having passed the civil service amendment. It means that the police and the fire department will be taken out of politics, and is a great forward step in the development of the city."

"I was an interested spectator of some of the pedestrian traffic to El Paso from Juarez, from where, said R. A. Berry. "It seemed to me as if all the Mexicans in Mexico came to El Paso, and I hardly wonder how this city keeps them all housed and busy. The officers at the quarantine station are busy all of the time vaccinating immigrants, and it seems to me that about 400 Mexicans cross into America from Juarez, on an average, each week. A large number, I understand, obtain employment at the railway section labor agencies, and many of the men arrange for the transportation of their families to northern points."

"We are out strongly after the automobile drivers who solicit passengers on the streets without being licensed to an automobile service stand and without having a public service license," said Capt. W. C. Simpson. "Numerous complaints have been received of persons picking up passengers on the streets, and these have been investigated and arrests made. Drivers who wish to drive public service cars must be attached to a stand and be called by telephone, and not pick their cars on the streets and attempt to solicit passengers."

"El Paso is much better built and more of a metropolis than I expected to find," said G. M. Douglas, superintendent of buildings and grounds of the University of Chicago, who was in the city for a rest. "I have read much of El Paso, especially during the past

Little Interviews

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few months, and, in a general way, I looked forward to finding only a bustling border town. I have been agreeably disappointed, however. It must be a pleasant surprise to all travelers, as it was to me, to find so many good hotels, some of them comparing very favorably with the hotels of eastern cities many times larger than El Paso claims to be. The residence section of the city is particularly attractive, because of the number of substantial bungalows which line whole streets. The more pretentious detached houses, especially those in mission style, would be a credit to any community. I am going to California, but when I return to Chicago, I will come this way to make a closer study of this wonderful place."

"Unless something radical is soon done by the street railway company, there is going to be something done, started by the residents on mass of the Government Hill section of the city," said Judge A. J. Hall. "The people up there are just about ready to take up arms in their desire to get better street car service. We are supposed to get a 20 minute car service, but instead, we often are obliged to wait half and three quarters of an hour. I don't know where the trouble lies, and it does not make a great deal of difference, for the trouble is there, and it surely needs attending to. The service has been just as poor as it is now, ever since last July, and really, the residents up there are just about at the end of their patience. They have already been talking of getting up a petition and presenting it, and I think that is what is going to be done, as a first step. Something is going to occur, you can wager on that, for there is no reason in the world why the cars can't be run on time and according to schedule."

"El Paso is known throughout the length and breadth of the land," said A. Worthington, owner of "The Great Worthington Shows," and I had many people ask me if I had seen the Elephant Butte dam, yet, I am certainly going to make the trip before long and I can do this very nicely, for my shows are to winter here. It is interesting to me to hear the fair boosters from all over the country talking about El Paso. All Mexican news seems to lead to El Paso and there is no question but that the people of the country are beginning to take more of an interest in the affairs along the border. This is probably due to the vast number of soldiers now down here, but, in any event, El Paso is a phrase on everybody's lips these days and you are certainly getting an enormous amount of advertising."

Mr. Worthington, owner of "The Great Worthington Shows," which are furnishing the attractions for the military carnival this week, and his general agent, W. H. Rice, arrived in El Paso last evening from Chicago.

Mr. Worthington has been attending the annual convention of state and county fair officials and he says that everybody has had a fairly good season this year.

Mr. Worthington said he met Riley Cooper and Ed Warner of the Seaside aggregation in Chicago and they told him El Paso was "the one best bet" for any attraction, as they had found the banner show town of the entire country.

Harry Thatcher Dunn, of Toledo, O., is said to be the most heavily insured man in the country, as he has taken out policies aggregating \$1,800,000 on his life.

There's no stay-at-home vote 'mongst the women. The only way to keep from makin' mistakes is to stand still.

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Abe Martin



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SHOPEARLY; GIVE GIRL CHANCE AS WELL AS YOURSELF



BANKER CHOSEN PRESIDENT

Nogales, Ariz., Dec. 14.—Bracey Curtis, a local banker, has been elected president of the Nogales chamber of commerce. Allen and J. W. Edwards are the vice presidents elect. Manuel Escalada is treasurer and J. B. Bristol secretary and traffic manager.

HOGWALLOW LOCALS

By GEORGE BINGHAM

The Old Miser, living on Market Ridge, gave the Blind Man a wormy hickorynut, Saturday.

A stranger gave a show in a tent at Bounding Billows a few nights ago. On exhibition he had an Egyptian mummy two

thousand years old, and a lady singer and dancer several hundred years younger.

Poke Earley, while coming home after the moon had set the other night with a midding of meat on his shoulder, met a cow in the road. Poke says a cow hasn't got any business out that late at night.

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